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# The President's Daily Brief

*August 20, 1976*

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Exempt from general  
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exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)  
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

August 20, 1976

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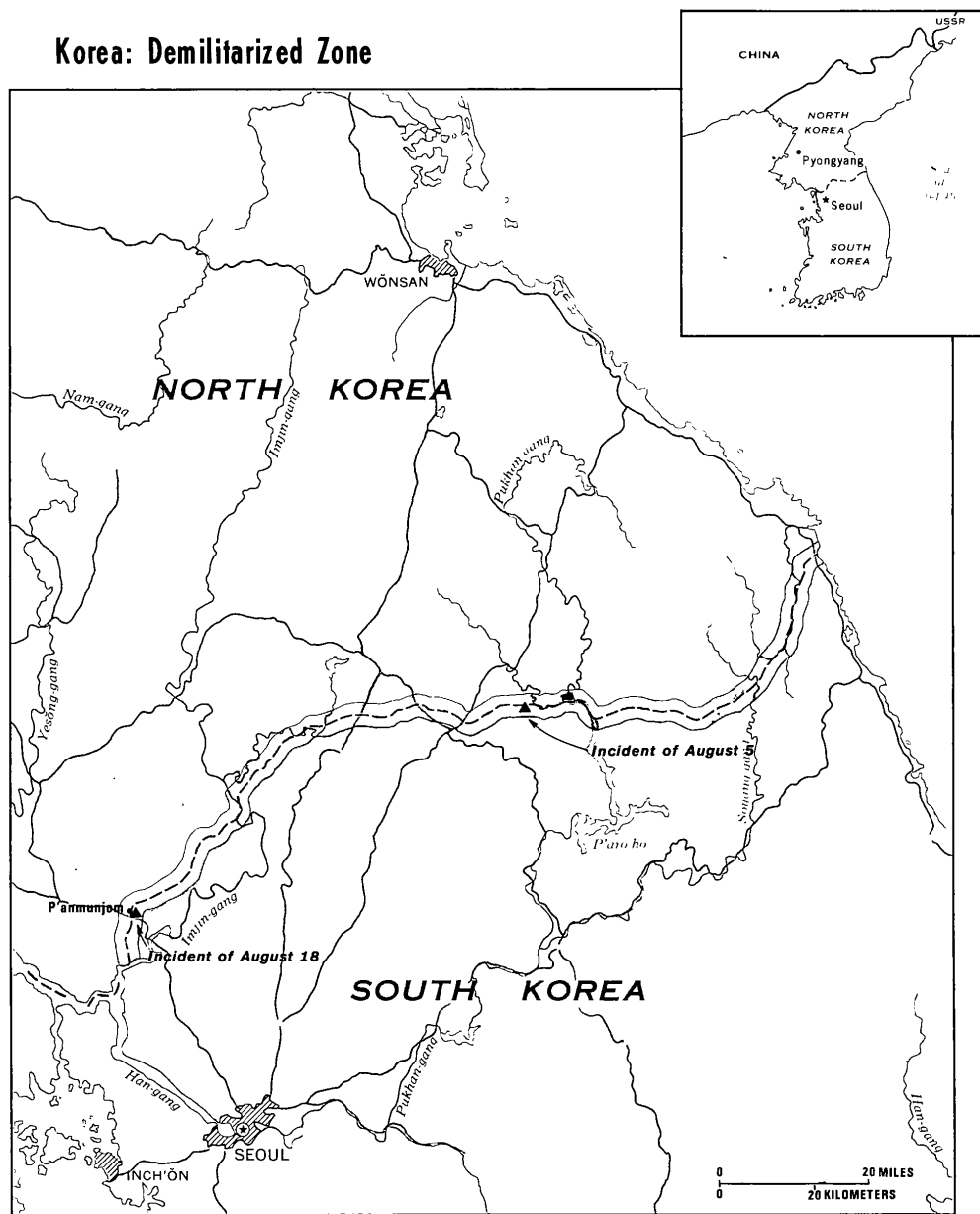
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## Korea: Demilitarized Zone



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The Demilitarized Zone is about 2.5 miles (4 km.) wide and about 150 miles long on land; it is extended in the Han River Estuary by 9 miles. The military demarcation line between North and South Korea runs down the middle of the DMZ.

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KOREA: *We present excerpts from the intelligence community's National Intelligence Situation Report with information as of 2:00 a.m.*

Pyongyang appears to be acting with caution while seeking to portray itself as the victim of aggressive US designs, following its alert announcement yesterday.

The North Koreans agreed to attend the meeting yesterday of the Military Armistice Committee and, while engaging in customary polemics, did not disrupt the proceedings. The communist side produced photographs purporting to prove that some of their men had been injured by United Nations Command personnel. Pyongyang has remained silent on the slaying of the two US officers, but has acknowledged that there were injuries on both sides.

Pyongyang's public statements on the incident have sought to call attention to heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula. However, there have been no threats--characteristic of some of President Kim Il-song's bombastic statements--to respond with a "revolutionary war" designed to drive the US out and achieve complete reunification.

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South Korea's ruling and opposition parties yesterday denounced the incident. The South Korean press and Korean contacts of the US embassy in Seoul are concerned that the US may not react with an adequate show of strength. President Pak, however, has reacted calmly. In

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a recent conversation with a senior US officer, he noted that the situation was sufficiently grave to warrant more than a verbal protest, but recommended against the use of armed force.

*There has been no Soviet press reaction to the incident of August 18, and we expect none until after the extent of the US response is known.*

The Soviets will most likely give verbal support to the North Koreans while attempting to avoid any direct involvement in a crisis.

Peking has not yet commented on the incident at Panmunjom. The direct involvement of US troops in the most recent incident may have led Peking to proceed cautiously.

\* \* \*

LEBANON: *The Christians have yet to start their campaign in the mountains east of Beirut, apparently hoping that threats will weaken the Palestinians' will to resist.*

The Phalanges Party has asked the commander of the Arab League force to convey a series of demands to the Palestinians. The Phalangists have stipulated that if the demands are not accepted within 48 hours--presumably by tomorrow--a "radical military solution" will be necessary. Acceptance of the conditions is unlikely.

Unusually heavy shelling between east and west Beirut continued again yesterday. Fighting in the Mount Lebanon area was primarily confined to machinegun fire and artillery shelling. In the north, the Christians are still shelling Tripoli and several neighboring areas.

a fedayeen "special group" attacked a Christian position in the north and recognized among the dead Tony

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Franjiyah--son of President Franjiyah, a militia leader, and a parliamentary deputy. The leftist radio has reported his death, but there has been no confirmation from other sources.

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*CUBA-JAMAICA: A high-level visit and a series of exchange programs are the latest evidence of Cuba's close ties with the government of Jamaica.*

A Cuban delegation led by a Politburo member and including an official of the American Department of the Cuban Communist Party--which has served as the principal link between Havana and the party of Prime Minister Manley--spent six days in Jamaica this month. This latter official has become a regular visitor to Jamaica.

Other members of the group were mostly officials from Oriente Province, an area with which Jamaicans have a traditional tie. Cane cutters have gone to Oriente to work for some years and often have stayed there, and many employees at the US naval base at Guantanamo are Jamaican. Havana may intend to exploit this attitude toward Oriente to develop a special relationship between eastern Cuba and Jamaica.

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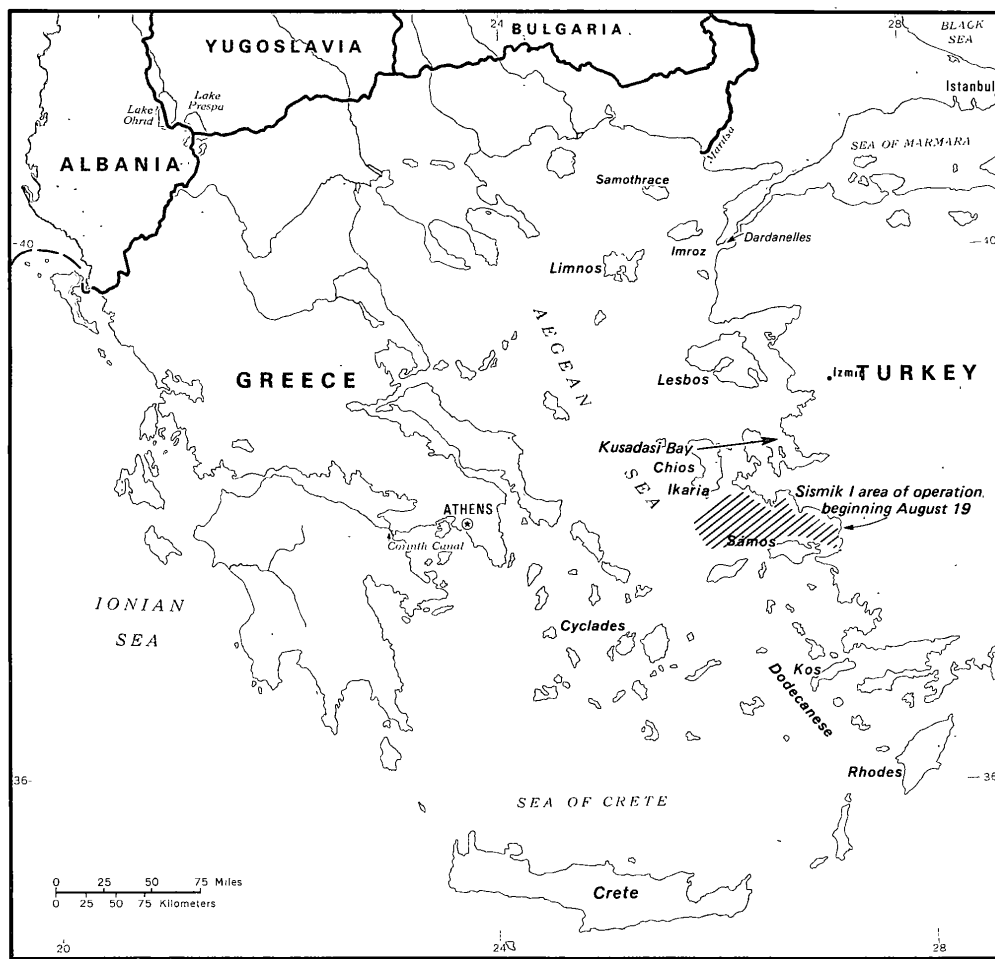


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Some 300 Jamaican youths are scheduled to spend a year in Cuba learning construction techniques. Under another program, 60 members of Jamaican youth organizations are spending this month in Cuba as guests of the Federation of University Students and the Union of Communist Youth.

A Cuban medical team of about 15 members, including both specialists and general physicians, began arriving in Jamaica in early August. About 280 Cubans are there participating in such programs as education, housing, and dam construction.

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## NOTES

*The Turkish ship Sismik I left port yesterday and presumably has begun its scheduled third phase of research activities. The Greek government is avoiding public comment on the ship's movements but reportedly will send naval ships to shadow the Sismik.*

The Turks probably will resume their own monitoring activities. Some military forces in both countries remain in advanced states of readiness.

The International Court of Justice yesterday announced a public hearing for next Wednesday to consider a Greek request for an injunction ordering Turkey to halt exploration in the disputed area. A ruling is expected by mid-September.

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*Former Thai military strongman Praphat's agreement to leave the country within seven days apparently has not yet defused the tense situation in Bangkok.*

Student radicals and members of leftist political groups reportedly plan to prolong the protests, even if Praphat does leave the country, in hopes of toppling the regime. Army and police units in the Bangkok area are on full alert.

Public confidence in the Seni government has already been significantly reduced by the affair.

\* \* \*

*Cuba has stepped up direct contacts with US companies, despite its public statements downplaying the importance of the US market.*

Since October, Havana has financed the visits of at least eight US companies to Cuba to explore bilateral trade possibilities once commercial relations between the two countries are normalized. It has tentatively scheduled visits by five additional companies within the next couple of months and has continued to communicate with a number of other US firms.

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In at least one instance, Cuba has requested a company to waive its compensation claim in return for future access to the Cuban market. Havana has also hinted at the possibility of management contracts and joint ventures.

These Cuban actions appear to be an effort to weaken the US business community's support for the US embargo. Although Cuba can now obtain most US products it wants through US-owned foreign subsidiaries, lifting of the embargo would constitute a significant psychological victory for the Castro government.

\* \* \*

*Violence flared in South Africa Wednesday night, this time in three black townships outside the city of Port Elizabeth. At least 14 were killed as a result of police gunfire.*

Adults joined high school students in a march, and rioting began when police halted the marchers. These latest outbreaks follow last week's rioting near Cape Town that left 29 dead.

Demonstrations and class boycotts by high school students are now fairly widespread. In Soweto, where violence first erupted in June, students burned a high school Wednesday night.

The government continues to jail prominent blacks throughout South Africa in a campaign against suspected militants. At least 60 arrests have been made during the past week.

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*The Soviet spacecraft, Luna 24, which landed on the moon on August 18, is scheduled to reach the earth on Sunday with a lunar soil sample, according to a Tass announcement.*

The sample may weigh as much as a kilogram (2.2 pounds).

This will be the third time the Soviets have retrieved samples of lunar soil. The two previous successful missions returned a total of about 200 grams (7 ounces) of such material. By contrast, the final US Apollo mission returned 113 kilograms (250 pounds) of material.

The Soviet's lunar missions have done little more than duplicate US programs. Now that the US lunar program has been completed, the Soviets may hope to enhance the prestige of their space program by continuing, and perhaps increasing, their scientific explorations on the moon.

\* \* \*

*Two Soviet ships are still conducting salvage operations in the Atlantic off Newfoundland in an attempt to recover the wreckage of the TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft that crashed there on August 4.*

The ships--a submarine rescue unit and a salvage tug--have been using scuba divers, manned diving bells, and dragging operations to locate and examine wreckage. The water in the immediate area is sufficiently shallow to allow this equipment to be employed successfully.

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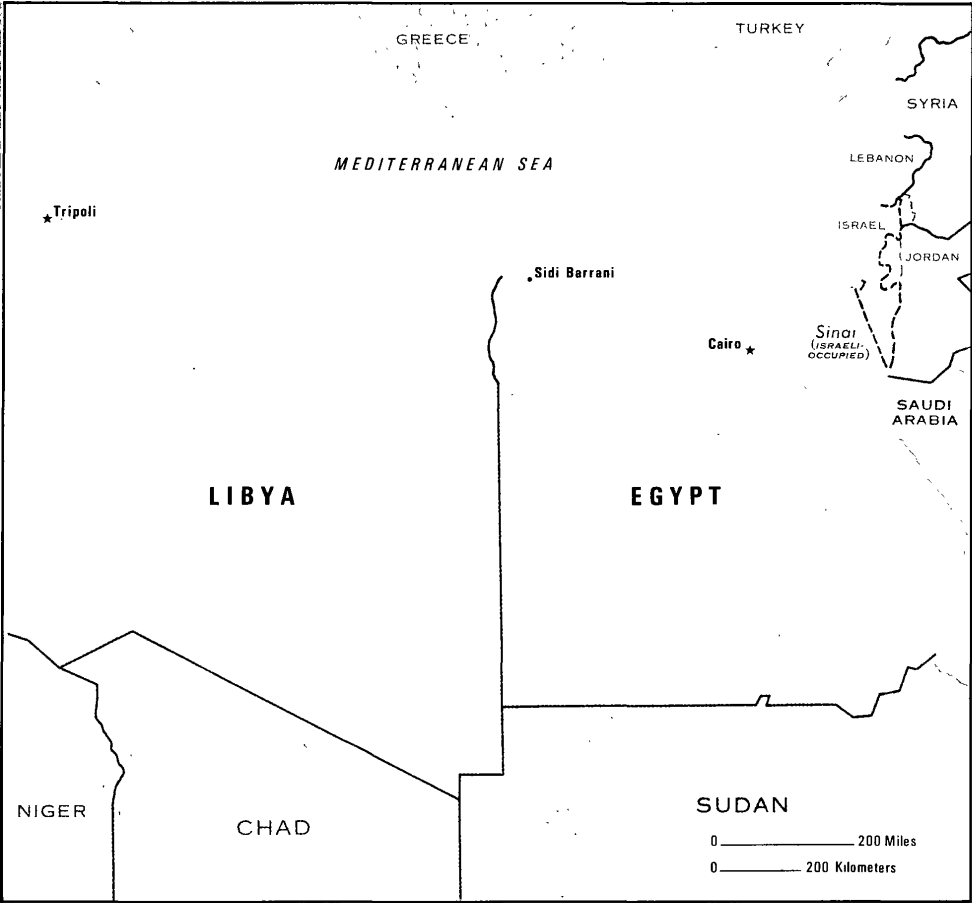
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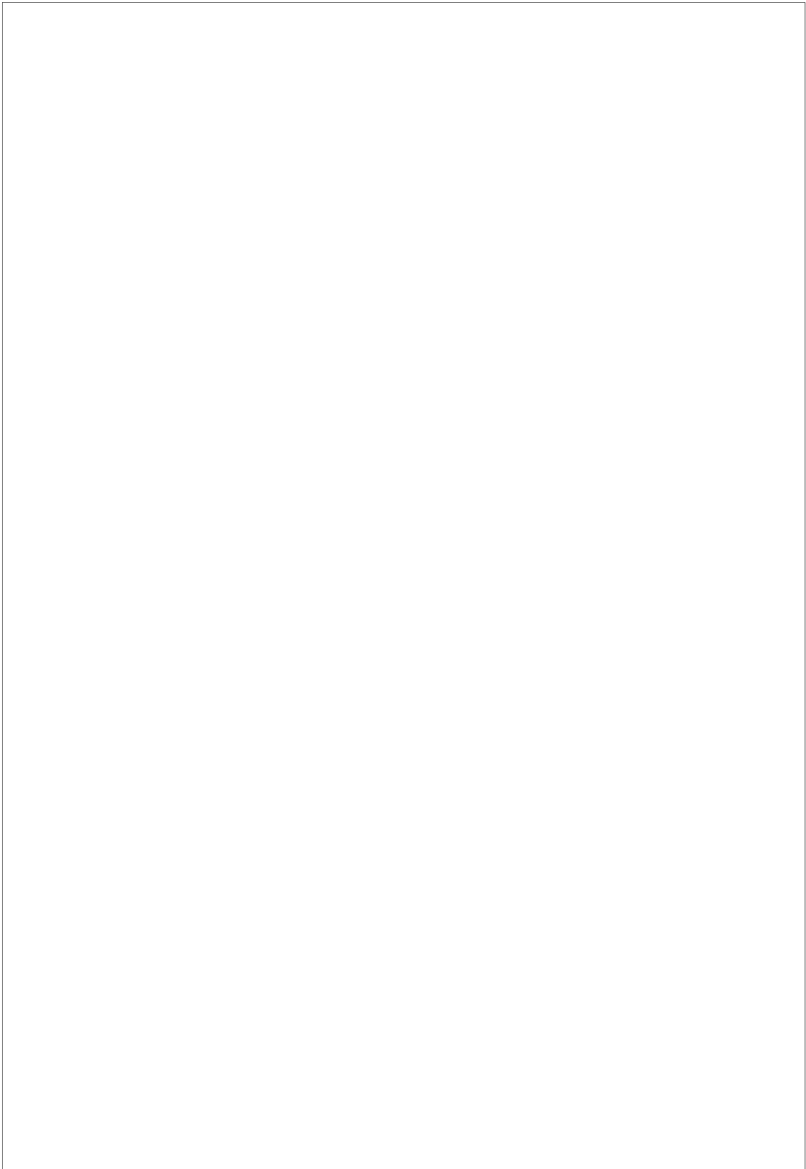
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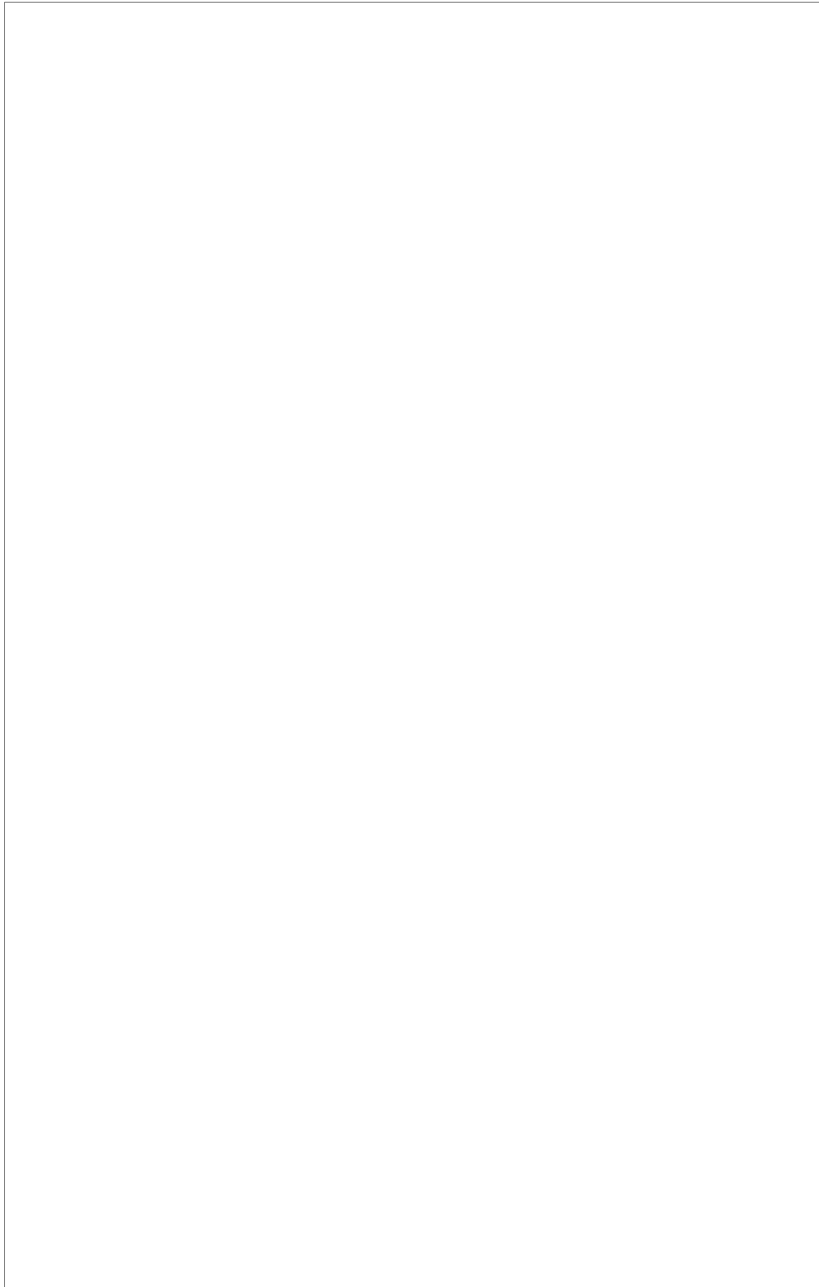
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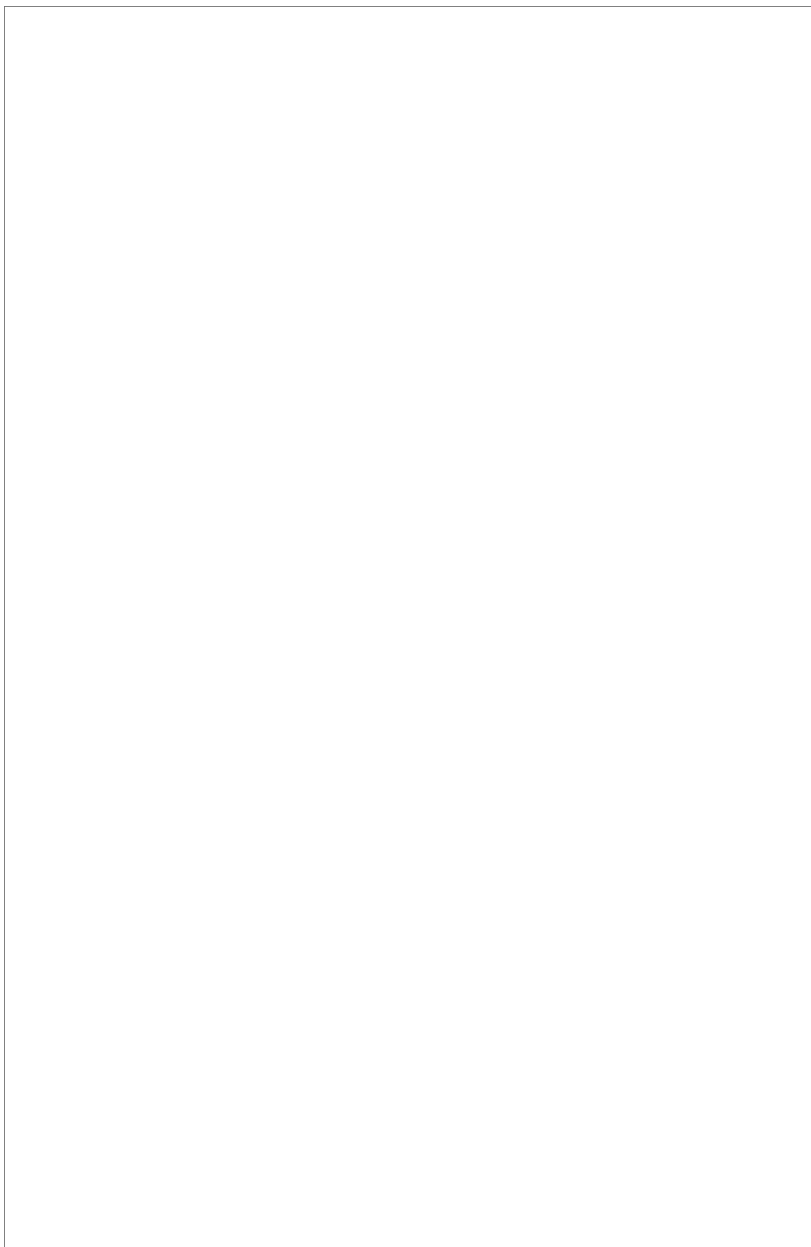
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